

THE FISHES OF THE PALMER RIVER.

BY WILLIAM MACLEAY, F.L.S., &c.

The Revd. J. E. Tenison-Woods procured while at the Palmer River, in Northern Queensland, a small collection of the Fishes of that river, which he has asked me to examine and if necessary to describe. He is indebted to Mr. Selheim, a German naturalist resident in the Palmer District, for the greater number of them. They are all fishes of the head waters of the Palmer, cut off by numerous falls from the lower part of the river, and therefore fresh water fishes in the strictest sense of the term.

1. THERAPON FASCIATUS, Casteln.

Proc. Linn. Soc., N. S. Wales, Vol. 5, p. 363.

This species seems to be confined to the rivers flowing into the Gulf of Carpentaria. A similarly marked, though very distinct species—*Therapon percoides*, Gunth.—is found in the East Coast rivers of Queensland. *Therapon terræ-reginæ*, Castelnau, I believe to be identical with *T. percoides*.

2. THERAPON TRUTTACEUS, Macleay.

Proc. Linn. Soc., N. S. Wales, Vol. 5, p. 366.

I described this fish originally from a specimen sent me from the Endeavour River. It is easily recognizable from *T. unicolor* and other unicolorous species, by the broad head, fleshy lips and smooth preorbital bones.

3. ELEOTRIS PLANICEPS, *n. sp.*

D. 6/10. A. 8.

Head broad, flat, and one third of the total length; mouth large and flat, the lower jaw protruding, the maxillary reaching to below the middle of the eye. The eye rather small and more than three diameters apart. The scales on the body are rather large and finely ciliated, those on the head smaller, and on the fore part of the head between the eyes there are a number of small

impressed nonimbricate scales. The colour is brownish with occasional darker spots, and with a number of whitish or pearly spots on the under surface of the head and branchiostegals. The fins are all more or less spotted with dark brown, the first dorsal almost barred. The tail is rather pointed.

This species belongs to the *Ophiocephalus* group of *Eleotris*. One specimen $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length.

4. *ARISTEUS CAVIFRONS*, *n. sp.*

D. $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{10}$. A. $\frac{1}{2}$. L. lat. 34.

Very compressed; belly trenchant; height of body nearly one third of the total length. Head small, about one fifth of the length of the body, depressed and almost excavated from the snout to behind the eyes; eyes large and about their diameter apart; snout shorter than the diameter of the eye. Mouth wedge-shaped when closed, rounded in front, the upper lip enlarged in the middle and fitting into a wide sinuation in the lower—the edge of both lips covered with small hooked teeth, the flat space on the forehead naked and uneven, and emarginated in front with a tubercle in the middle; the head beneath horse shoe-shaped with three or four large pores on each side, a few large pores also on the preorbital bones. The preoperculum is short and scaly, the angle extending backwards subacutely; the operculum is rounded and covered with two or three large smooth scales. The rays of the first dorsal fin terminate in filaments, the spine of the second dorsal is strong, but not so long as the rays which lengthen towards the tail; the tail is not emarginate, the ventrals are placed much behind the line of the origin of the pectorals, and close together; the pectorals are small and rather above the middle of the body. The colour is bluish silvery, with a lighter silvery stripe along each scale; the membranes of the dorsal, anal and ventral fins are of a pinkish hue; a few minute spots on the root of the caudal.

Three specimens, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length.

5. SYNAPTURA SELHEIMI, *n. sp.*

D. + C. + A. 155. P. 6. L. lat. 81.

Height of body one third of the total length, eyes small, nearly on the same plane, and nearly two diameters apart. Scales small, strongly ciliated or toothed on both sides; vertical fins low, lengthening gradually to the tail, which is rather pointed; ventral fins small, opposite, the right one longest; pectoral fins very small, the right one longest. Colour brown mottled all over with black.

Several specimens averaging four inches in length.

This is the first instance I have come across in this country of a fresh water sole. Both this and the last described Fish—*Aristeus cavifrons*—were captured by a very small hook baited with a fragment of a blade of grass.

6. NEOSILURUS HYRTLII, Steind.

Proc. Linn. Soc., N. S. Wales, Vol. 6, p. 208.

This species seems to be found in most of the rivers of Northern Queensland. The specimen from the Palmer River is only half grown.

7. CHÆTOËSSUS EREBI, Richards.

Proc. Linn. Soc., N. S. Wales, Vol. 4, p. 368.

One specimen of small size. It is found all over the North and West Coasts of Australia both in fresh and salt water.

ON THE PLANTS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—No. VIII.

BY THE REV. DR. WOOLLS, D.D., F.L.S., &c.

Class III. ACOTYLEDONES.

The only Cryptogams described in the *Flora Australiensis* are the higher Vascular orders, as Mr. Bentham did not think it